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**FROM:** Roberto Capriotti, Reg. No. 46,599  
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Amendment and Response (11 pgs.)

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/017,852  
Applicant : Norris et al.  
Filed : 12/12/01  
TC/A.U. : 2668  
Examiner : Thai D. Hoang

Docket No. : 42390.P11635

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Confirmation No.: 9597

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 6, 2006, with the three month shortened statutory period for response under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) set to expire on Saturday, May 6, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows. This response is timely filed within three-months of the mailing date of the Office Action on Monday, May 8, 2006.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.